

## An Order for Compline



*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which  
thou hast prepared before the face of all  
people...Luke 2.30*

AN ORDER FOR  
**COMPLINE**

*This service may be used when Evening Prayer has  
previously been said.*

*The minister shall say:*

**The** Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night  
and a perfect end. *Amen.*

*Officiant* Our help is in the Name of the Lord;  
*People* The maker of heaven and earth.

*The Minister may then say*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**WE** confess to God Almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Ghost, that we have sinned  
in thought, word, and deed, through our own  
grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to have  
mercy upon us.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive  
us all our sins and deliver us from all evil,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and

other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Silence may be kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.*

*Minister* We will lay us down in peace and take our rest:

*Answer* For it is though Lord only that makest us dwell in Safety.

*Minister* The Lord be with you

*Answer* And with thy spirit.

*Minister* Let us bless the Lord.

*Answer* Thanks be to God.

*The Minister concludes*

**The** almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. *Amen.*

bring us to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*If a Priest be present, he shall pronounce the following absolution:*

**May** the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*The Officiant then says*

*Minister* Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;

*Answer* That thy people may rejoice in thee?

*Minister* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*Answer* And grant us thy salvation.

*Minister* Vouchsafe O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

*Answer* O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

*Minister* O Lord, hear our prayer;

*Answer* And let our cry come unto thee.

*One or more of the following Psalms are sung or said. Other suitable selections may be substituted.*

#### **Psalm 4** *Cum invocarem*

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*

you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor  
my glory; \*

how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?"

3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the  
faithful; \*

when I call upon the LORD, he will hear  
me.

4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*

speak to your heart in silence upon your  
bed.

5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*

and put your trust in the LORD.

6 Many are saying,

"Oh, that we might see better times!" \*

Lift up the light of your countenance  
upon us, O LORD.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*

more than when grain and wine and oil  
increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*

for only you, LORD, make me dwell in

**Look** down, O Lord, from your heavenly  
throne, and illumine this night with your  
celestial brightness; that by night as by day your  
people may glorify your holy Name; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Visit** we beseech thee, O Lord, this place, and  
drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let thy  
holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in  
peace; and let thy blessing be upon us  
evermore; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*One of the following prayers may be added*

**Keep** watch, dear Lord, with those who work,  
or watch, or weep this night, and give your  
angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the  
sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless  
the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the  
afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your  
love's sake. *Amen.*

*or this*

**O** God, your unfailing providence sustains the  
world we live in and the life we live: Watch over  
those, both night and day, who work while  
others sleep, and grant that we may never  
forget that our common life depends upon each

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Minister and People*

**Our Father**, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*The Minister then prays one of the following Collects*

**Lighten** our darkness we beseech thee O Lord,  
and by thy great mercy preserve us from all  
perils and dangers of this night: for the love of  
thy only Son, our savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**Be** present, O merciful God, and protect us  
through the hours of this night, so that we who  
are wearied by the changes and chances of this  
life may rest in your eternal changelessness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

safety.

**Psalm 31** *In te, Domine, speravi*

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame: \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and  
guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have  
secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.

**Psalm 91** *Qui habitat*

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most  
High \*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

- 2 He shall say to the LORD,  
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*  
my God in whom I put my trust."
- 3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the  
hunter \*  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his pinions,  
and you shall find refuge under his wings; \*  
his faithfulness shall be a shield and  
buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by  
night, \*  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, \*  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-  
day.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, \*  
but it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes only have to behold \*  
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the LORD your  
refuge, \*  
and the Most High your habitation,

***Nunc Dimittis (together)***

**Lord**, now lettest thou thy servant depart in  
peace, \*

according to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, \*  
which thou hast prepared before the face of  
all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, \*  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
for ever. Amen.

*All repeat the Antiphon*

**Preserve** us O Lord, waking, and guard us  
sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep we may rest in peace.

*After which, the following prayers:*

*Minister* O Lord, hear our prayer;

*Answer* And let our cry come to you.

*Minister* Let us pray.

*A hymn suitable for the evening may be sung.*

*Te lucis ante terminum.*

**BEFORE** the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That with thy wonted favour thou  
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,  
From nightly fears and fantasies;  
Tread under foot our ghostly foe,  
That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,  
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;  
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,  
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

*Then follows*

*Minister:* Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of an eye;

*Answer:* Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

*Antiphon, which is sung or said by all*

**Preserve** us O Lord, waking, and guard us  
sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep we may rest in peace.

10 There shall no evil happen to you, \*  
neither shall any plague come near your  
dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over  
you, \*  
to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands, \*  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and the  
adder; \*  
you shall trample the young lion and the  
serpent  
under your feet.

14 Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him; \*  
I will protect him, because he knows my  
Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer  
him; \*  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to  
honor.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, \*  
and show him my salvation.

**Psalm 134** *Ecce nunc*

1 Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, \*  
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.

2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; \*  
the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*One of the following, or some other suitable passage of Scripture, is read*

Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9,22*

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or this*

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

*Matthew 11:28-30*

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or the following*

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Hebrews 13:20-21*

*People* Thanks be to God.

*or this*

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith. *1 Peter 5:8-9a*

*People* Thanks be to God.